

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 032 080

LI 001 563

By-McFeely, Mary

Chapel Library Center, Annual Reports 1967, 1968.

New Haven Free Public Library, Conn.

Pub Date [69]

Note-21p.; Related documents are LI 001 561 and LI 001 562.

EDRS Price MF-\$0.25 HC-\$1.15

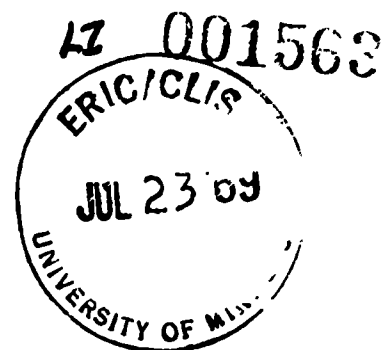
Descriptors--*Community Involvement, Disadvantaged Groups, Library Collections, *Library Programs, *Library Services, *Neighborhood Centers, Public Libraries

The Chapel Library Center, in its third and fourth years of existence, had as its goal relevant service to the people of its neighborhood who represent a wide range of economic, ethnic and educational backgrounds. These reports describe activities, programs, book collections, art exhibits, circulation, and staffing of the Center. Conclusions about the success of the Center include: (1) Innovation and flexibility are important aspects of Center activities and programs. (2) Increased coordination of programs, activities, floor work, and displays has led to increased recognition on the part of patrons of the total function of the library center. (3) The Center has had little success in becoming a center of community action. (4) Good library service, though difficult to evaluate in specific terms, is even more important than good programs and activities. (5) The need for planned in-service training tailored to the new type of library service offered becomes more apparent to the staff each year. (6) The Center's informal and friendly atmosphere contributed to the success it has had. (Author/CC)

NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHAPEL LIBRARY CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 1967



I. INTRODUCTION

The Chapel Library Center continues to operate, in the words of the original recommendation made by Dr. Emerson Greenaway, as "a different kind of agency than the typical branch." Operated by the City of New Haven as a branch of the New Haven Free Public Library, the center has the purpose of finding ways to reach a public not accustomed to using a library, and to make the library and its contents useful and meaningful to that public.

To achieve this purpose, the center provides varied programs, activities and exhibits. These are designed to attract interest, to provide information and cultural stimuli, to give opportunity for individual creative effort. For many residents of the neighborhood, the center has become a familiar place. The atmosphere is casual and permissive within the boundaries of behavior necessary for relative peace.

The center provides a meeting place for community groups as well as informal community contacts, such as the daily public affairs forum which takes place, unscheduled, over morning newspapers in the lounge area. More traditionally, the center provides space and materials for study and research connected with school assignments. It serves as an information center for the community through display boards and resource files.

The center is open 56 hours a week. In 1967 activity meetings averaged 11 per week, with an average attendance of 11 at each meeting.

Circulation in 1967 averaged 3,095 books per month. New registration cards were issued to 454 adult borrowers and 342 children.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE
PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS
STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

ED032080

001563

15 001563

II. ACTIVITIES

Activities in 1967 included some that were tried and true from previous years and some that were innovative, in equal measure. Of 30 different activities, 15 were new to the center. Fourteen were children's groups; 7 were teen activities; and 9 were for adults.

The total number of meetings for all of these activities was 577; total attendance was 6,590, an average of over 11 people per meeting.

Adult Activities

<u>Activity</u>	<u>No. of meetings</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Art Club	29	198	Jan.-May; Sept.
Creative Writing	31	236	Jan.-Aug.
Basic Education Course	47	647	throughout year
Senior Citizens	45	604	throughout year
Mothers' Coffee Hour	84	692	throughout year
Sketch Club	5	23	June-July
Adult Education Crafts	18	211	July-Dec.
Art and Travel Circle	5	31	Sept.-Dec.
Book Discussion	4	15	Oct.-Nov.
Totals: 9 activities	268	2,657	

Teen Activities

<u>Activity</u>	<u>No. of meetings</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Creative	12	84	Jan.-Mar.
Art Club	11	45	Jan.-Mar.
Tutoring	3	9	Jan.
Chess Club	18	90	Feb.-Aug.
Creative Movie Making	3	40	April
Boys' Art	3	15	
Teen discussion group	6	24	July-Aug.
Totals: 7 activities	56	307	

Children's Activities

Pre-Pre-School Story Hour	103	1,259	throughout year
Afternoon Story Circle	19	117	Jan.-June
Children's Art Club	42	543	throughout year
Children's Play Reading - Creative Drama	59	534	Jan.-July
Film Shorts	34	511	Jan.-May
Chess Club	6	30	Jan.-March
Library Helpers	5 (+ informal)	44	Mar.-April; Dec.
Girls' Club	8	57	Mar.-April
Fun with Spanish	15	86	Mar.-June
Boys' Club	3	12	April
Puppet Makers' Club	22	209	July - (continuing)
Newspaper & Creative Writing	15	121	Oct. - (continuing)
Fun with Language	10	96	Sept.-Nov.
Pre -Teen Art	1	6	Nov.

Activities at Legion Center

<u>Activity</u>	<u>No. of meetings</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Children's Art	19	301	Jan.-June; Dec.
Pre-School Story Hour	35	319	Jan.-June
Chess	4	14	
Totals: 14 activities at Chapel	310	4,259	
3 activities at Legion			

Traditional library activities included story telling and book discussion groups. Experimentation and innovation continued in activities which are not so obviously book-oriented, such as chess, art, and drama. Activities were initiated in response to felt needs, and developed in the same way: a children's play-reading group grew into creative drama; the newspaper group became interested in creative writing as well as reporting. Pre-school morning story hours had small attendance until a simultaneous coffee and discussion period for mothers was added; then both groups flourished.

Activities with a specific theme (art club, library helpers, chess) have had a longer life than those aimed more generally at a broad group (boys' club, girls' club), with a few exceptions, notably the senior citizens. Activities which require a sustained and developing program, such as language groups, are difficult to maintain because the same individuals do not return week after week on a regular basis.

Some activities are dependent on the skill or talent of a particular staff member; an example is chess, which was a steady organized activity in all three age groups as long as there was a staff member who could direct it. Since the departure of that staff member, chess has continued to be played as an informal, undirected library activity, though with fewer people participating.

Books are used or recommended in relation to activities. In addition, an attempt is made, through the activities, to increase the individual's awareness of the world around him, of what goes on in the city, of his place and his responsibilities in the community. Information and ideas may be brought to the attention of participants through speakers, films, or discussion. In the creative activities (art, drama, writing), participants are encouraged to experiment and to extend their abilities. This may require patience, especially with adults who are reluctant to try something "different."

Statistics have not been kept on informal, unplanned activities which are an important part of the center's life. For example, retired men visit the center daily, finding here an opportunity to exercise the mind, both in informal discussion of the state of the world, politics, and business, and in the more structured situation of the senior citizens' group meetings.

The value of an activity to its participants in enrichment or widening horizons, and its value to the center in attracting new patrons to the library, are also measures of success. The satisfaction of carrying through a creative group project may be more important than a polished presentation of a puppet show or a play.

Special Activities

Fall Reading Contest: 65 children participated in this eight-week activity, and read and reported on 417 books. The most attractive aspect of this activity for the children was the opportunity to report on books to members of the staff on a one-to-one basis. The contest required a large investment of staff time to select books, display progress reports, and above all, listen to the children's reports.

It yielded a high return: 25% of the children who entered the contest were new library users. Of the children who read the required eight books, several went on to read bonus books, and some read more than 20 books.

School Classes: Storytelling in the schools and class visits to the library have proved highly successful in bringing new patrons to the library. Storytellers visiting the schools carry information about what is happening at the library. When classes visit the library, they are met by a staff member who helps with book selection, gives instruction in library use, or tells a story, and also tells the class about our activities and programs and current exhibits. In 1967, center staff members made 110 visits to classrooms, telling stories to 3,168 children. 55 classes from neighboring schools visited the library, with a total of 1,092 children.

III. PROGRAMS

Fourteen different types of programs were presented at Chapel Library Center in 1967. Some were presented at the center by other organizations, such as the Neighborhood Music School or NARCO; others were planned by the library staff, using visiting speakers and performers, films, etc. Five were performances or celebrations of achievement presented by center activity groups.

Sunday afternoon cultural programs for adults, concerts, or art exhibit openings bring visitors from other parts of the city as well as neighborhood residents to the library. A well-organized advance publicity effort is essential to the success of any program: posters and flyers inform the neighborhood, and newspaper and radio announcements reach a wider public.

It is, perhaps, a sign of success in getting across the center concept that many neighborhood residents have come to take for granted the library's presentation of such programs. If several weeks pass without a Sunday program, neighborhood residents ask for them.

Types of Programs

	<u>Total Attendance</u>
Talent and Fashion Show (1)	200
Concerts (5)	335
Art Openings (2)	115
NARCO program (1)	43
"Half-pint" party for children (1)	50
Play (Creative Drama Club) (1)	65
Film Shows (3)	82
Poetry Reading	15
Reading Contest Party	37
Christmas Decorating Clinics (3)	24
Puppet Show (1)	35
Santa Claus Visit (1)	8
Magic Show (1)	65
Halloween Party (1)	30

IV. BOOKS AND EXHIBITS

The adult collection numbered 7,866 books at the end of 1967, with 697 new books having been added, and 383 withdrawn from the collection. In the juvenile collection, 1,158 new books were added and 301 books withdrawn, and the total number of books was 10,841. The library's total collection is 18,707 books.

The collection includes a selection of large print books which are shelved separately. These are used by adults whose reading skill is underdeveloped, by young people who find them less formidable than standard editions, and by people

with vision handicaps. This last group is most reluctant to take advantage of large-print books, apparently preferring not to admit failing eyesight.

Intershelfed with the adult collection is the center's small collection of books, especially written for adults learning to read. Juvenile non-fiction is useful to these patrons, as well.

Paperbacks, displayed on a rack in casual fashion, attract many readers, and especially teenagers.

Adult and juvenile non-fiction, although shelved separately, are used interchangeably. Juvenile books often suit the adult who is seeking a basic understanding of a new subject; adult books are used by students doing research for school reports or pursuing an advanced interest.

Table exhibits, changed frequently, present books related to programs and activities in the center, or to special holidays and anniversaries, or simply to a selected topic -- nature, fairy tales, famous people. During the Fall Reading Contest, table exhibits were designed to suggest reading for the contest; a large cardboard train at the back of the center stressed the "All Aboard" theme, and this was carried through in a large display board, on which each contestant was represented by a cutout "freight car" with a yellow flag added for each book read.

Art Exhibits: Art exhibits on the library center's white walls attract visitors and provide a topic of discussion for regular patrons. Displays of the work of New Haven area artists change approximately once a month. Exhibits in 1967 included drawings, prints, watercolors, oils, and photographs. Occasionally a Sunday afternoon opening launches the exhibit, attended by both neighborhood people and the artist's friends. For local residents the opening may provide a first

opportunity to talk with a trained artist about his work. Discussion of the current exhibit may also be included in activity group meetings such as Senior Citizens or Children's Art, and the center newspaper's reporters are encouraged to review the exhibits.

Circulation

The library center's total circulation in 1967 was 37,143 books, divided almost equally between adult books (18,932) and juvenile books (18,211). This represents a drop in circulation from the center's first year, when circulation was 56,445, and its second year, when it was 51,929. To some extent the drop may be attributed to a levelling off of interest as the library center has become a familiar institution in the community; but it may be interpreted as a reminder, too, that the staff must continue to find new ways to attract readers, and to encourage readers to broaden their interests.

The circulation table and chart shows a considerable fluctuation from month to month. It is possible to conclude that adults read more in the summer months, while children read less; that the holiday season in December, combined with snowy weather, has a decidedly adverse effect on circulation; and, perhaps most significantly, that a special activity such as the reading contest, energetically carried out, and book-oriented, may give circulation a real boost.

Registration

New library cards were issued to 796 persons: 454 adults and 342 children. In the center's first year, 1964-65, 1498 new cards were issued, and in 1965-66, 3160 new cards. Records were kept of new registrations by census tract with the object of evaluating the center's impact on the poor and the non-library-oriented

residents of the area. However, since no statistics are available as guidelines later than 1960, evaluation can only be based on assumption. Unless an accurate statistical description of each tract is available, further maintenance of such records seems futile.

V. "REACHING OUT": Staff activities outside the center

An important aspect of the library center philosophy is that the staff is not confined to the library, but moves out to meet the community whenever the opportunity arises. Director and staff have attended Dwight neighborhood team meetings, PTA meetings, and other community meetings, as well as meeting informally with school and CPI staff. Attendance at neighborhood meetings has two objectives: to carry the library story and news to community groups, and to keep the center staff in touch with community events and needs so that the center's program can meet these needs.

The library center story has been shared with other librarians. During 1967, the center's director spoke about New Haven's library centers at a Rhode Island state workshop for librarians, at a joint staff meeting of the Hartford Public Library, and at a University of Wisconsin conference on "Serving the Unserved." In New York City, she conducted workshops for the staffs of the North Manhattan project and the Lincoln Square Library Project.

VI. STAFF

During the first part of 1967, Mr. Karl Reeh served as director of the Chapel Library Center. In May, Mrs. Eva G. Williams returned as director, while continuing to direct the Davenport Center.

A total of 11 staff members was associated with the center during 1967. Six were program workers; two, assistant program workers, and one junior librarian, and

two library assistants (one a summer replacement). Four left the staff during the year, and two were added. In addition to the regular staff, the center is staffed by two work-study students from Southern Connecticut State College, four pages, and student volunteers from Southern Connecticut who assist with children's activities

VII. EVALUATION

Innovation continues to be an important aspect of center activities and programs. Even those activities which have continued over a long period of time require the infusion of new ideas.

The center has had little success in becoming a center of community action. The neighborhood committee called for by the original proposal was established, but disbanded because of lack of interest. Difficulty in this area may be attributed in part to the fact that the center's neighborhood is not a tightly knit community, but several communities which touch each other geographically at approximately the location of the center.

The neighborhood worker can be an important asset in communicating between the library and the community. Through most of this year the Chapel Center had no staff member specifically assigned to this task.

Good library service, though difficult to evaluate in specific terms, is even more important than good programs and activities. These two aspects of the center work together to make the library a center of neighborhood activity. Reader service is important, especially if many readers are not familiar with libraries; guidance in book selection, encouragement in expanding reading interests, are essential.

The center's informal, friendly atmosphere contributes to the success it has had in making neighborhood residents frequent visitors.

- - 0 - -

This report by

Mary McFeely
Director, Chapel Library Center
1968-69

New Haven Free Public Library
133 Elm Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Chapel Library Center
1580 Chapel Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

~~LE 001 564~~

ED032080

NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHAPEL LIBRARY CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 1968

I. INTRODUCTION

The Chapel Library Center, in its fourth year of existence, functions as a branch library with an active program designed to capture the interest and participation of a segment of the community which has not, in the past, made the library a focal point of its life. The program includes a relaxed atmosphere, an emphasis on serving as a neighborhood information center, and planned communication with neighborhood groups and individuals, as well as scheduled creative and learning activities for various age groups.

It is the goal of the Center to provide relevant service to the people of its neighborhood, who represent a wide range of economic, ethnic, and educational backgrounds. The effort towards this goal is concentrated in three areas: 1) activities and special programs which fill a need, whether informational, or developing a creative ability; 2) development and maintenance of a collection of books and other printed materials which is relevant to community needs and personal service on an individual basis which includes not only help in selecting reading and finding information but referral to other agencies; 3) outreach and communication with residents of the neighborhood in order to learn what the needs of the community are and to communicate what the Center can do to fill them.

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS*

28 activities were conducted in 1968; 15 of these were new. Five were for

*Activities are regularly scheduled and ongoing. Programs are special events which occur once or in a limited series of two or three meetings.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE
PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS
STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

001563
~~LE 001 564~~
LT

adults; 7 for teens; and 15 for children. The total number of meetings for all activities was 758; total attendance was 5,857; average attendance per meeting was 8.

Storytelling for pre-school children is a traditional library activity which is successful in the library center as well. The twice-weekly morning story hour at Chapel is increasingly popular, and acquaints the children with a specific group of stories as well as encouraging them to read and enjoy books in general. A factor in the success of this activity is that storytelling is done by several staff members as well as college work-study students trained by our staff, providing a variety of performers.

The older children who come of their own motivation are attracted by less traditional activities, such as performing in a play or puppet show, working on art or crafts projects, or cooking. In such activities, books are introduced in a secondary relation to the immediate action (for example, the play performed may be based on a folk tale). The same children, after they have been coming to the center for some time, may become very enthusiastic about programs which are more immediately book-oriented, such as a paperback book club or the Library Helpers.

Children who are enrolled in center activities frequently participate in more than one activity, and also visit the center more frequently to look at books, draw pictures, or play games.

Regularly scheduled activities are less successful with teens and adults, perhaps because they have many other demands on their time. Everyday informal communication and assistance combined with occasional special programs of high interest and pertinence make a more effective impression. Neighborhood outreach is essential to bring adults and teens to the library. Scheduled activities with the greatest attendance are those for mothers of young children and for senior citizens--both "leisure" groups.

Informal activities which occur daily in the center include browsing among newspapers and periodicals; conversation and political discussion among the senior citizens of the neighborhood; chess and checkers games in which all age groups participate; as well as more traditional library pursuits such as homework, reference questions, and selection of books for leisure or educational reading.

Special programs are presented to give information related to specific community needs, or to take note of holidays. Other special events include films, performances, and presentation of the achievements of Center activity groups. In 1968 Chapel Library presented 27 different special programs to a total of 1,066 people.

Activities and programs serve two purposes: 1) to bring people into the library setting and make it familiar to them, showing them how books may be of use to them; 2) to provide education and information on matters of interest to neighborhood residents, or to develop a skill or talent in what might be termed an enrichment program.

III. "REACHING OUT"

Increasingly we recognize the necessity of moving out of the physical confines of the library to meet the public. This is accomplished through interagency contact as the director attends weekly neighborhood planning team meetings, PTA meetings and other community gatherings; and works to coordinate the library centers program with the efforts of other agencies. The center's neighborhood worker visited residents door-to-door, especially in new housing as it opened in the Dwight neighborhood.

A coordinated program was conducted in relation to each class in the neighborhood schools. Staff visited the schools on a regular basis, to tell stories and publicize center activities in each classroom. Each teacher was scheduled to bring the class to visit the center for two "formal" sessions of library instruction and stories. Children were encouraged to register for borrowers' cards, and borrow books,

and the second visit was planned to occur before the books were due so that a successful experience of borrowing and returning books could be assured.

Visits to School Classrooms

Number of visits	117
Number of children	3,445

Visits of Classes to Library

Number of visits	111
Number of children	1,898

The results of this coordinated program were visible in several ways. Teachers voluntarily brought their classes on one or several additional visits, some planning a regular visit every month or even every week to exchange books. The children who came with their classes returned after school to borrow books and participate in afternoon activities. An increase in circulation of juvenile books parallels the increase in class visits.

IV. BOOKS AND EXHIBITS

The adult collection numbered 8,171 at the end of 1968; 550 had been added and 245 books withdrawn during the year. In the juvenile collection, 477 were added and 593 withdrawn, and the total number was 10,725. The library's total collection is 18,896 books.

Books are displayed in table exhibits with appropriate art work designed to attract the attention of the browser. These exhibits are changed monthly. One table is regularly devoted to fiction; another to teen reading; others may focus on a special event of the month such as Negro History Week, or on books related to events of interest, such as a space flight, or they may bring out books of practical use in a given area, such as career selection.

Window displays on a large scale are intended to catch the eye of the passer-by. The theme is often seasonal, and related books are displayed on the shelf at the window.

Materials for the adult with little educational background are scarce. Children's non-fiction books are used with adults, but care must be taken in selecting books that are not condescending in tone. There is now more material being published for these readers and it would be useful to have more of it in the collection. In addition, the Center needs more informational pamphlet material for distribution without charge as needed, in conjunction with the neighborhood information program described below (section VI).

Art exhibits change monthly, bringing original work of New Haven artists to the Center. In addition one wall is devoted to exhibiting work done in the Center's own art programs.

The library center's total circulation in 1968 was 38,433; juvenile circulation was 18,077 and adult, 20,356. This represents an increase in circulation of 1,290. Peak circulation months for adult books were January and July. Juvenile circulation peak was in October, when our school program was launched.

New library cards were issued to 838 individuals in 1968. Of these, 388 were adults and 450 children. New registrations in 1967 numbered 796.

V. STAFF

Mrs. Eva Williams continued as director of Chapel Library Center through the first months of 1968; then she became Coordinator of Library Centers and the position at Chapel was filled by Mrs. Mary McFeely. Several members of the staff moved away from New Haven, and one went to direct another library center in the system. New staff was recruited during the summer and we were able to resume a schedule of activities.

VI. EVALUATION

Increased coordination of programs, activities, floor work and displays has led to increased recognition on the part of patrons of the total function of the library center.

This has been evidenced by informal comment on the part of patrons and by an increase (by informal observation) in the number of patrons who use the center in multiple ways. Behind this coordination lies cooperation and communication among the staff.

Flexibility is essential in planning for the library center. Community needs and interests are not constant, and programs must keep pace with them. In addition, as the center becomes an accepted permanent part of the community, the children who continue to come need variety in the activities offered for them and become ready for more sophisticated activities.

There is need for closer contact with the community. The center is in touch with the children and retired people, but still not communicating with the teens and active adults who have little leisure time. To reach this group it will be necessary to go out to meet them to a greater degree than has been possible so far. Towards this end, the Center will initiate in 1969 a coordinated program of information and neighborhood work which it is hoped will make the library of more immediate usefulness to adult members of the community. One staff member will have as his main responsibility neighborhood work; he will develop and maintain a file of information on social and education services available in the community and personal contact with representatives of the various agencies; and he will be in charge of assisting people in finding necessary information in this area, as well as referring them to the appropriate agency. In addition he will spend some of his time out in the neighborhood communicating the Center's function and finding out how it can improve its usefulness to the neighborhood.

The Chapel Library Center's location at the edge of several neighborhoods means that it must serve an unusually broad variety of interests and backgrounds, from non-reader to graduate students, from the newly arrived and very poor welfare family to the middle class senior citizen who has lived in the neighborhood for half a century.

The Dwight community, a predominantly black neighborhood which the Center serves, is beginning to become politically organized, with the encouragement of Community Progress, Inc. (The Community Action Agency), but most of its energy in 1968 was spent in developing a neighborhood organization, the Dwight Concerned Citizens. 1969 may see some action by this group, and the Center may be able to help in promoting action, to bring the neighborhood a large share of social services.

The summer program in 1968 was constructed along the same lines as the year-round program; that is, activities were scheduled on a continuing basis with weekly meetings. Attendance was scattered, and the relative success of short-term activities which met more frequently over a three- or four-week period suggests that this approach would be more successful for future summer programming.

The need for planned in-service training tailored to our new type of library service becomes more apparent each year. In addition, as able individuals without college background are used to staff the centers, some means of developing careers should be made available to them. Without this, such individuals will continue to leave the center staff for other positions which offer the possibility of future advancement and training.

As the Chapel Library Center approaches five years of operation, there is reason to believe that it has become a useful part of the neighborhood and to hope that it will continue to increase its role.

(Mrs.) Mary McFeely
Director, Chapel Library Center

Meredith Bloss
City Librarian
New Haven Free Public Library
New Haven, Conn. 06510

APPENDIX - ACTIVITY AND PROGRAM STATISTICS

Children's Activities

Activity	No. of Meetings	Attendance	Duration
Pre School Story Hour	102	1388	Throughout year
Newspaper Club	16	101	Jan.-April
Art Club	44	510	throughout year
Puppet Club	22	126	Jan.-May
Library Helpers	162	628	throughout year
Curious George Club	26	177	May-Dec.
Piano Lessons	2	8	May
Talk out Club	5	36	May-June
Summer Drama Club	11	63	June-Aug.
Chapel Library Glee Club	3	18	June-July
Creative Writing Club	3	14	July
Informal Art Activity	5	50	August
Theatre Workshop	17	132	Sept.-Dec.
Paperback Book Club	10	45	Oct.-Dec.
Boys Club	5	60	Nov.-Dec.
Children's Activity Group at Legion Center	78	642	throughout year
Total: 16 activities	513	3,998	

Teen Activities

Teen Art	2	10	February
Teen Girls' Club	8	24	May-June
Teen Age Film Series	9	58	June-Aug.
Baby Sitters Training Class	8	29	July-Aug.
Young "Mods"	17	50	July-Aug.
Cooking Club	7	55	Nov.-Dec.
Tutoring	6	6	Nov.-Dec.
Totals: 7 activities	57	232	

Adult Activities

Mothers' Coffee Hour	102	759	throughout year
Adult Art	28	79	Jan.-May, Oct.-Dec.
Senior Citizens	45	737	throughout year
Creative Writing	4	8	July and Sept.
Arts and Crafts Club	9	44	Oct.-Dec.
Totals: 5 activities	188	1,627	

Number of new activities started in 1968

Adult	2
Teens	7
Children's	6

Number of activities discontinued in 1968

Adult	2
Teens	0
Children's	6

Four activities were planned and conducted for the summer only.

Programs

Total Attendance

Thrift Week

"Things to make at home"	17
Food Stamp talk	6
"Penny-wise meal planning"	8
Vista Film	16
Film "Florence"	65
Valentine Party	23
Spelling Bee	14
Teen Decorating Clinic (3 meetings)	66
Egg Decorating for Easter	15
Spelling Bee	35
Puppet Club Show	150
Book Review Contest	78
Hat Parade	90
Sunday Film	
"Summer '67-Summer '68"	6
Library Helpers Party	50
Children's Plays	
By Drama Club	40
By Creative Writing Club	25
Movie "The Chicken"	13
Library Surprise	11
Film Program	14
Art Exhibit Opening (September)	50
Halloween Mask Making and Apple Bobbing	100
Pumpkin Cutting and Play	65
Film Special	20
Jabberwock	40
Fairy Tale Theatre	40

residents of the area. However, since no statistics are available as guidelines later than 1960, evaluation can only be based on assumption. Unless an accurate statistical description of each tract is available, further maintenance of such records seems futile.

V. 'REACHING OUT': Staff activities outside the center

An important aspect of the library center philosophy is that the staff is not confined to the library, but moves out to meet the community whenever the opportunity arises. Director and staff have attended Dwight neighborhood team meetings, PTA meetings, and other community meetings, as well as meeting informally with school and CPI staff. Attendance at neighborhood meetings has two objectives: to carry the library story and news to community groups, and to keep the center staff in touch with community events and needs so that the center's program can meet these needs.

The library center story has been shared with other librarians. During 1967, the center's director spoke about New Haven's library centers at a Rhode Island state workshop for librarians, at a joint staff meeting of the Hartford Public Library, and at a University of Wisconsin conference on "Serving the Unserved." In New York City, she conducted workshops for the staffs of the North Manhattan project and the Lincoln Square Library Project.

VI. STAFF

During the first part of 1967, Mr. Karl Reeh served as director of the Chapel Library Center. In May, Mrs. Eva G. Williams returned as director, while continuing to direct the Davenport Center.

A total of 11 staff members was associated with the center during 1967. Six were program workers; two, assistant program workers, and one junior librarian, and

two library assistants (one a summer replacement). Four left the staff during the year, and two were added. In addition to the regular staff, the center is staffed by two work-study students from Southern Connecticut State College, four pages, and student volunteers from Southern Connecticut who assist with children's activities.

VII. EVALUATION

Innovation continues to be an important aspect of center activities and programs. Even those activities which have continued over a long period of time require the infusion of new ideas.

The center has had little success in becoming a center of community action. The neighborhood committee called for by the original proposal was established, but disbanded because of lack of interest. Difficulty in this area may be attributed in part to the fact that the center's neighborhood is not a tightly knit community, but several communities which touch each other geographically at approximately the location of the center.

The neighborhood worker can be an important asset in communicating between the library and the community. Through most of this year the Chapel Center had no staff member specifically assigned to this task.

Good library service, though difficult to evaluate in specific terms, is even more important than good programs and activities. These two aspects of the center work together to make the library a center of neighborhood activity. Reader service is important, especially if many readers are not familiar with libraries; guidance in book selection, encouragement in expanding reading interests, are essential.

The center's informal, friendly atmosphere contributes to the success it has had in making neighborhood residents frequent visitors.

- - 0 - -

This report by

Mary McFeely
Director, Chapel Library Center
1968-69

New Haven Free Public Library
133 Elm Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Chapel Library Center
1580 Chapel Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

ED032080

~~LI 001 564~~

NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHAPEL LIBRARY CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 1968

I. INTRODUCTION

The Chapel Library Center, in its fourth year of existence, functions as a branch library with an active program designed to capture the interest and participation of a segment of the community which has not, in the past, made the library a focal point of its life. The program includes a relaxed atmosphere, an emphasis on serving as a neighborhood information center, and planned communication with neighborhood groups and individuals, as well as scheduled creative and learning activities for various age groups.

It is the goal of the Center to provide relevant service to the people of its neighborhood, who represent a wide range of economic, ethnic, and educational backgrounds. The effort towards this goal is concentrated in three areas: 1) activities and special programs which fill a need, whether informational, or developing a creative ability; 2) development and maintenance of a collection of books and other printed materials which is relevant to community needs and personal service on an individual basis which includes not only help in selecting reading and finding information but referral to other agencies; 3) outreach and communication with residents of the neighborhood in order to learn what the needs of the community are and to communicate what the Center can do to fill them.

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS*

28 activities were conducted in 1968; 15 of these were new. Five were for

*Activities are regularly scheduled and ongoing. Programs are special events which occur once or in a limited series of two or three meetings.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE
PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS
STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

001563
~~LI 001 564~~

adults; 7 for teens; and 15 for children. The total number of meetings for all activities was 758; total attendance was 5,857; average attendance per meeting was 8.

Storytelling for pre-school children is a traditional library activity which is successful in the library center as well. The twice-weekly morning story hour at Chapel is increasingly popular, and acquaints the children with a specific group of stories as well as encouraging them to read and enjoy books in general. A factor in the success of this activity is that storytelling is done by several staff members as well as college work-study students trained by our staff, providing a variety of performers.

The older children who come of their own motivation are attracted by less traditional activities, such as performing in a play or puppet show, working on art or crafts projects, or cooking. In such activities, books are introduced in a secondary relation to the immediate action (for example, the play performed may be based on a folk tale). The same children, after they have been coming to the center for some time, may become very enthusiastic about programs which are more immediately book-oriented, such as a paperback book club or the Library Helpers.

Children who are enrolled in center activities frequently participate in more than one activity, and also visit the center more frequently to look at books, draw pictures, or play games.

Regularly scheduled activities are less successful with teens and adults, perhaps because they have many other demands on their time. Everyday informal communication and assistance combined with occasional special programs of high interest and pertinence make a more effective impression. Neighborhood outreach is essential to bring adults and teens to the library. Scheduled activities with the greatest attendance are those for mothers of young children and for senior citizens--both "leisure" groups.

Informal activities which occur daily in the center include browsing among newspapers and periodicals; conversation and political discussion among the senior citizens of the neighborhood; chess and checkers games in which all age groups participate; as well as more traditional library pursuits such as homework, reference questions, and selection of books for leisure or educational reading.

Special programs are presented to give information related to specific community needs, or to take note of holidays. Other special events include films, performances, and presentation of the achievements of Center activity groups. In 1968 Chapel Library presented 27 different special programs to a total of 1,066 people.

Activities and programs serve two purposes: 1) to bring people into the library setting and make it familiar to them, showing them how books may be of use to them; 2) to provide education and information on matters of interest to neighborhood residents, or to develop a skill or talent in what might be termed an enrichment program.

III. "REACHING OUT"

Increasingly we recognize the necessity of moving out of the physical confines of the library to meet the public. This is accomplished through interagency contact as the director attends weekly neighborhood planning team meetings, PTA meetings and other community gatherings; and works to coordinate the library centers program with the efforts of other agencies. The center's neighborhood worker visited residents door-to-door, especially in new housing as it opened in the Dwight neighborhood.

A coordinated program was conducted in relation to each class in the neighborhood schools. Staff visited the schools on a regular basis, to tell stories and publicize center activities in each classroom. Each teacher was scheduled to bring the class to visit the center for two "formal" sessions of library instruction and stories. Children were encouraged to register for borrowers' cards, and borrow books,

and the second visit was planned to occur before the books were due so that a successful experience of borrowing and returning books could be assured.

Visits to School Classrooms

Number of visits	117
Number of children	3,445

Visits of Classes to Library

Number of visits	111
Number of children	1,898

The results of this coordinated program were visible in several ways. Teachers voluntarily brought their classes on one or several additional visits, some planning a regular visit every month or even every week to exchange books. The children who came with their classes returned after school to borrow books and participate in afternoon activities. An increase in circulation of juvenile books parallels the increase in class visits.

IV. BOOKS AND EXHIBITS

The adult collection numbered 8,171 at the end of 1968; 550 had been added and 245 books withdrawn during the year. In the juvenile collection, 477 were added and 593 withdrawn, and the total number was 10,725. The library's total collection is 18,896 books.

Books are displayed in table exhibits with appropriate art work designed to attract the attention of the browser. These exhibits are changed monthly. One table is regularly devoted to fiction; another to teen reading; others may focus on a special event of the month such as Negro History Week, or on books related to events of interest, such as a space flight, or they may bring out books of practical use in a given area, such as career selection.

Window displays on a large scale are intended to catch the eye of the passer-by. The theme is often seasonal, and related books are displayed on the shelf at the window.

Materials for the adult with little educational background are scarce. Children's non-fiction books are used with adults, but care must be taken in selecting books that are not condescending in tone. There is now more material being published for these readers and it would be useful to have more of it in the collection. In addition, the Center needs more informational pamphlet material for distribution without charge as needed, in conjunction with the neighborhood information program described below (section VI).

Art exhibits change monthly, bringing original work of New Haven artists to the Center. In addition one wall is devoted to exhibiting work done in the Center's own art programs.

The library center's total circulation in 1968 was 38,433; juvenile circulation was 18,077 and adult, 20,356. This represents an increase in circulation of 1,290. Peak circulation months for adult books were January and July. Juvenile circulation peak was in October, when our school program was launched.

New library cards were issued to 838 individuals in 1968. Of these, 388 were adults and 450 children. New registrations in 1967 numbered 796.

V. STAFF

Mrs. Eva Williams continued as director of Chapel Library Center through the first months of 1968; then she became Coordinator of Library Centers and the position at Chapel was filled by Mrs. Mary McFeely. Several members of the staff moved away from New Haven, and one went to direct another library center in the system. New staff was recruited during the summer and we were able to resume a schedule of activities.

VI. EVALUATION

Increased coordination of programs, activities, floor work and displays has led to increased recognition on the part of patrons of the total function of the library center.

This has been evidenced by informal comment on the part of patrons and by an increase (by informal observation) in the number of patrons who use the center in multiple ways. Behind this coordination lies cooperation and communication among the staff.

Flexibility is essential in planning for the library center. Community needs and interests are not constant, and programs must keep pace with them. In addition, as the center becomes an accepted permanent part of the community, the children who continue to come need variety in the activities offered for them and become ready for more sophisticated activities.

There is need for closer contact with the community. The center is in touch with the children and retired people, but still not communicating with the teens and active adults who have little leisure time. To reach this group it will be necessary to go out to meet them to a greater degree than has been possible so far. Towards this end, the Center will initiate in 1969 a coordinated program of information and neighborhood work which it is hoped will make the library of more immediate usefulness to adult members of the community. One staff member will have as his main responsibility neighborhood work; he will develop and maintain a file of information on social and education services available in the community and personal contact with representatives of the various agencies; and he will be in charge of assisting people in finding necessary information in this area, as well as referring them to the appropriate agency. In addition he will spend some of his time out in the neighborhood communicating the Center's function and finding out how it can improve its usefulness to the neighborhood.

The Chapel Library Center's location at the edge of several neighborhoods means that it must serve an unusually broad variety of interests and backgrounds, from non-reader to graduate students, from the newly arrived and very poor welfare family to the middle class senior citizen who has lived in the neighborhood for half a century.

The Dwight community, a predominantly black neighborhood which the Center serves, is beginning to become politically organized, with the encouragement of Community Progress, Inc. (The Community Action Agency), but most of its energy in 1968 was spent in developing a neighborhood organization, the Dwight Concerned Citizens. 1969 may see some action by this group, and the Center may be able to help in promoting action, to bring the neighborhood a large share of social services.

The summer program in 1968 was constructed along the same lines as the year-round program; that is, activities were scheduled on a continuing basis with weekly meetings. Attendance was scattered, and the relative success of short-term activities which met more frequently over a three- or four-week period suggests that this approach would be more successful for future summer programming.

The need for planned in-service training tailored to our new type of library service becomes more apparent each year. In addition, as able individuals without college background are used to staff the centers, some means of developing careers should be made available to them. Without this, such individuals will continue to leave the center staff for other positions which offer the possibility of future advancement and training.

As the Chapel Library Center approaches five years of operation, there is reason to believe that it has become a useful part of the neighborhood and to hope that it will continue to increase its role.

(Mrs.) Mary McFeely
Director, Chapel Library Center

Meredith Bloss
City Librarian
New Haven Free Public Library
New Haven, Conn. 06510

APPENDIX - ACTIVITY AND PROGRAM STATISTICS

Children's Activities

Activity	No. of Meetings	Attendance	Duration
Pre School Story Hour	102	1388	Throughout year
Newspaper Club	16	101	Jan.-April
Art Club	44	510	throughout year
Puppet Club	22	126	Jan.-May
Library Helpers	162	628	throughout year
Curious George Club	26	177	May-Dec.
Piano Lessons	2	8	May
Talk out Club	5	36	May-June
Summer Drama Club	11	63	June-Aug.
Chapel Library Glee Club	3	18	June-July
Creative Writing Club	3	14	July
Informal Art Activity	5	50	August
Theatre Workshop	17	132	Sept.-Dec.
Paperback Book Club	10	45	Oct.-Dec.
Boys Club	5	60	Nov.-Dec.
Children's Activity Group at Legion Center	78	642	throughout year
Total: 16 activities	513	3,298	

Teen Activities

Teen Art	2	10	February
Teen Girls' Club	8	24	May-June
Teen Age Film Series	9	58	June-Aug.
Baby Sitters Training Class	8	29	July-Aug.
Young "Mods"	17	50	July-Aug.
Cooking Club	7	55	Nov.-Dec.
Tutoring	6	6	Nov.-Dec.
Totals: 7 activities	57	232	

Adult Activities

Mothers' Coffee Hour	102	759	throughout year
Adult Art	28	79	Jan.-May, Oct.-Dec.
Senior Citizens	45	737	throughout year
Creative Writing	4	8	July and Sept.
Arts and Crafts Club	9	44	Oct.-Dec.
Totals: 5 activities	188	1,627	

Number of new activities started in 1968

Adult	2
Teens	7
Children's	6

Number of activities discontinued in 1968

Adult	2
Teens	0
Children's	6

Four activities were planned and conducted for the summer only.

Programs

Total Attendance

Thrift Week

"Things to make at home"	17
Food Stamp talk	6
"Penny-wise meal planning"	8
Vista Film	16
Film "Florence"	65
Valentine Party	23
Spelling Bee	14
Teen Decorating Clinic (3 meetings)	66
Egg Decorating for Easter	15
Spelling Bee	35
Puppet Club Show	150
Book Review Contest	78
Hat Parade	90
Sunday Film	
"Summer '67-Summer '68"	6
Library Helpers Party	50
Children's Plays	
By Drama Club	40
By Creative Writing Club	25
Movie "The Chicken"	13
Library Surprise	11
Film Program	14
Art Exhibit Opening (September)	50
Halloween Mask Making and Apple Bobbing	100
Pumpkin Cutting and Play	65
Film Special	20
Jabberwock	40
Fairy Tale Theatre	40